AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant requests that the Examiner replace Figure 1 as originally filed with the enclosed replacement sheet of drawings, which includes Figure 1. In Figure 1, some of the reference numbers have been removed to conform with the text of the specification as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. Furthermore, the sub-boxes of Portal Services, Communication Services, and Web, Application and Integration Services, have been removed in order to clarify the invention.

Attachments: One replacement sheet

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Drawings

Furthermore, Applicant hereby submits a replacement drawing sheet for Figure 1, and asks that the replacement drawing sheet be accepted by the Examiner. The drawing has been modified to remove references to portions of the drawings and conform to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. No new subject matter has been added by way of the replacement of the drawing sheet.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 14.

Dependent claim 22 has been added by this reply. Support for dependent claim 22 may be found, for example, in paragraph [0041] of the specification. No new subject matter has been added by the addition of claim 22.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of dependent claim 9. Independent claims 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21 have been amended to include similar limitations as amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, dependent claim 9 has been canceled by this reply.

As all the amendments made include limitation from an original dependent claim, the amended claims include no new subject matter and are fully supported by the specification. Further, Applicant believes that no further search or consideration is required by the amendments made to the claims.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has improperly rejected dependent claims 9-11 because no reason for this rejection is stated in the Detailed Office Action dated March 11, 2005.

As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.104, the applicant shall be notified of the examiner's action. The reasons for any adverse action or any objection or requirement shall be stated in an Office action and such information or references will be given as may be useful in aiding the applicant to judge the propriety of continuing the prosecution. See MPEP 707. No such reason has been provided by the Examiner making the rejection improper.

Nevertheless, as described below, amended independent claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21 incorporate the limitations of cancelled claim 9. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 9 is moot and amended independent claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21 are allowable for the reasons stated below. Further, claims 10-11 are allowable because the claims depend on claim 1 which is allowable for the reasons stated below. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 37 C.F.R. 103

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,375 ("Hoshino"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,422 ("Hunt"). As stated above, independent claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21 have been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 9. To the extent this rejection still applies, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure. See MPEP 706.02(j).

As stated above, the Examiner has not stated the reasons for rejecting claim 9, which is incorporated in amended independent claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21. Independent claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 20, and 21 as amended now include the limitation "wherein the back-end portion comprises a plurality of back-end plug-ins for database management." The plug-in methodology recited in the amended claims allows the directory server to be flexible and modular. For example, the plug-in methodology allows the changing or disabling of one feature of a directory server without affecting other features of the directory server (See, for example, Instant Specification at [0067]).

The Applicant respectfully asserts that Hoshino does not teach or suggest the back-end portion including a plurality of back-end plug-ins for database management. Specifically, Hoshino is silent with respect to even having such plug-ins. Therefore, Hoshino cannot teach back-end plug-ins for database management as recited in the claims.

Further, Hunt does not teach that which Hoshino lacks. Hunt is also silent with respect to plug-ins. Therefore, Hunt cannot be used to teach or suggest back-end plug-ins for database management. Accordingly, Hunt and Hoshino, whether considered together or separately, do not support the rejection of amended independent claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 20, of 21. Dependent claims 2-8, 10-11, and 15-19 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim

Dependent claim 22 has been added with this response. As shown above, neither Hunt nor Hoshino support the rejection of claim 1. Thus, Hunt and Hoshino do not support the rejection of claim 22, which is dependent on claim 1.
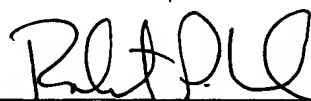
Furthermore, Hoshino and Hunt do not teach or suggest roles or class of service. Specifically, Hoshino only teaches retrieving information from a database. (*See, e.g.*, Hoshino Abstract). Hoshino is silent with respect to performing functions involving roles and class of service. Further, Hunt only teaches controlling data collection. Hunt is likewise silent with respect to the above functions involving roles and class of service. In view of the above, Hoshino and Hunt may not be used to support a rejection of new claim 22.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220/007001; P5842).

Dated: June 13, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

By_____

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Attachment: one drawing sheet

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